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~~68.~~ A metal ion chelate according to claim ¹~~55~~ in the form of a calcium salt of an anionic chelate complex of a paramagnetic metal ion and a chelating compound of formula I, or a salt of said metal ion chelate.

¹⁵
~~69.~~ A metal ion chelate or salt according to claim ¹⁴~~68~~ wherein the molar ratio of calcium to chelating compound is from 0.05 to 1.0.

¹⁶
~~70.~~ A metal ion chelate in the form of a calcium salt of the manganese (II) chelate of claim ¹²~~66~~ or a salt thereof.

¹⁷
~~71.~~ A metal ion chelate or salt according to claim ¹⁶~~70~~ wherein the molar ratio of calcium to chelating compound is from 0.05 to 1.0.

¹⁸
~~72.~~ A sodium-calcium salt of a manganese (II) chelate of N,N'-bis(pyridoxal-5-phosphate)ethylenediamine-N,N'-diacetic acid or a salt thereof.

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REMARKS

Withdrawal of the final rejection, entry of this amendment and allowance of this application as amended are respectfully requested.

The foregoing proposed corrections to the specification correct obvious and inadvertent typographical errors or omissions, or update references to commonly-assigned copending applications, none of which involves the insertion of any new matter. The additions to Example 32 on page 47 are necessitated by an earlier amendment to Example 18, to which Example 32 refers.

The courtesies extended to Applicants' undersigned attorney by Examiner Alan L. Rotman at the December 6, 1989 interview in this application are acknowledged with appreciation.

Claims 1-8 and 10-19, all the claims pending in the application, have been finally rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 and 112. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Further, this rejection is believed obviated by claims 55-72 (the same number of claims as those finally rejected) presented in this amendment for entry in place of the finally rejected claims, and by the arguments presented at the December 6 interview.

At the interview, Applicants' attorney explained to the Examiner that it is conventional in this art to claim patentable chelate compositions, such as those disclosed and claimed in this application, by reciting the chelating compound and the metal ion being complexed thereby. In support of this argument, Applicants' attorney referred the Examiner to the claims of Rocklage, et al. U.S. Patent No. 4,842,845, issued June 27, 1989 on an application filed the same day as this one, which were allowed in the chelating compound plus metal ion being chelated format.

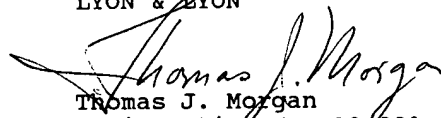
Applicants' attorney also referred the Examiner to the Rocklage, et al. article entitled "Manganese (II) N,N'-Dipyridoxylethylenediamine-N,N'-diacetate 5,5'-Bis(phosphate). Synthesis and Characterization of a Paramagnetic Chelate for Magnetic Resonance Imaging Enhancement.", Inorganic Chemistry, 1989, 28, 477, which shows that the coordination structure of one of the compounds depicted in Formulas II, III and IV in this application, Mn-DPDP, is supported by crystallographic analysis.

It is submitted, with respect, that the proposed claims presented in this amendment place this application in condition for immediate allowance. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner enter this amendment, withdraw the final rejection, and pass this application to issue.

Should the Examiner remain of the opinion, however, that this application is not in condition for allowance, it is further requested that this amendment be entered for purposes of appeal upon the filing of the notice of appeal.

Respectfully submitted,

LYON & LYON


Thomas J. Morgan
Registration No. 19,891

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Attorneys for Applicants

LYON & LYON - 34th Floor
611 West Sixth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90017
Telephone: (202) 842-8400